



Pending Cannabis Potency Legislation: What You Need to Know



Vermont currently imposes THC potency caps of 60% on solid concentrates, and 30% on cannabis flower. Packaged edible products are limited to 50mg per package and 5 mg per serving. These limits were imposed to create safer products for consumers and protect those most vulnerable to harms. As a note, there are no potency limitations on cannabis liquid concentrates.



Cannabis flower



Cannabis solid



Cannabis edibles



Cannabis liquid concentrates

WHY DO POTENCY LIMITS MATTER FOR VERMONTERS?

High-potency cannabis use is correlated with an increased risk of Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD), cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, and a higher risk and earlier onset of psychosis. These impacts are worse for youth, adolescents, and those with a family history of mental illness. Because cannabis use among youth and young adults across Vermont is consistently higher* than the national average.

It is important to consider how policies to increase the potency limits of cannabis products may cause harm to our communities. By creating and continuing safeguards for those most susceptible to adverse effects, Vermont's lawmakers may continue to support a system that considers vulnerable community members.

CHALLENGES

With limited data available, it is not clear how potency limits impact the legal versus illegal markets. If potency limits drive consumers to illegal markets, it may decrease the tax revenue of legal sales, drive consumers towards purchasing from other neighboring states, and place individuals at an increased risk for consuming unregulated and untested products that may produce harmful health impacts.

Public health risks have led to cannabis liquid products being exempt from potency limitations. In 2019 the nationwide EVALI crisis sparked a large increase in hospitalizations and deaths due to lung injuries from illicit market vapes using Vitamin E acetate diluents. Because of the high-risk from illicit market vapes, policymakers have chosen to try to eliminate barriers for consumers purchasing these products legally.

BEST PRACTICES

Several states have initiated legislative action to impose potency caps. In addition to cannabis potency limits, many states are pursuing potency-based excise tax structures, and conducting scientific research on the negative health impacts of high-potency THC concentrates. Additional best practices include potency limits based on age, tighter marketing restrictions, and clear warning labels.

CONSIDERATIONS

Restrictions on high-potency cannabis products are part of an effective public health approach to cannabis policy.

[Learn more with links to relevant studies and legislation:](#)